

officers tracked down child molesters in the United States, many of whom were molesting their own children and distributing the images of these children on the Internet. Authorities have identified 25 individuals involved in this ring, 14 of whom were Americans. Through Operation Hamlet, 65 children have been rescued.

We're taking aggressive steps to protect children from exploitation and victimization. And the United States Congress can help by passing the "Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act." The House has passed this important bill, and I want to thank them for their good work.

The House passed a bill which makes it illegal for child pornographers to disseminate obscene, computer-generated images of children. It's an important piece of legislation. The Senate needs to act soon. The Senate needs to get moving and join the House in providing our prosecutors with the tools necessary to help shut down this obscenity, this crime—these crimes against children.

When a child's life or innocence is taken, a grave and unforgivable act has occurred. A parent's worst nightmare has come real. The people in this room are on the frontlines of a great struggle, determined to see that no parent is forced to live through a nightmare.

I'm tremendously grateful for the good works. I want to thank you all for being true patriots. I want you to know, at the Federal level, we're joining in the fight. We'll go after them, one person at a time, to make America a promising place for everybody who lives here.

May God bless your work, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. in the Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to the sniper attacks in the Washington, DC, area which left 10 dead and 3 injured. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Russian Democracy Act of 2002

October 23, 2002

I have today signed into law H.R. 2121, the "Russian Democracy Act of 2002." This Act seeks to promote democracy, the rule of law, and an independent media in the Russian Federation.

Section 3(b) of the Act purports to establish U.S. policy towards Russia. My approval of the Act does not constitute my adoption of the statements of policy in section 3(b) as U.S. foreign policy. Given the Constitution's commitment to the presidency of the authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, the executive branch shall construe such policy statements as advisory, giving them the due weight that comity between the legislative and executive branches should require, to the extent consistent with U.S. foreign policy.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 23, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2121, approved October 23, was assigned Public Law No. 107-246.

Proclamation 7614—United Nations Day, 2002

October 23, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The United Nations was founded 57 years ago to improve our global community by strengthening the ties among member nations through improved communication, expanded understanding, and enhanced security. On United Nations Day, America joins the world in commemorating the founding of this important international organization and recognizing the profound impact it has had on our world and the role that it continues to play.

Since October 24, 1945, the United Nations Organization has grown to include 191 member states. Through its relief agencies, the U.N. aids and protects millions of refugees and displaced persons worldwide. For example, in 2001, the United Nations World Food Program provided aid to 77 million people in 82 countries and helped to avert a severe famine that threatened Afghanistan. The U.N. also seeks to improve living conditions around the globe by immunizing children, providing safe drinking water, and fighting disease.

The United States remains committed to helping the U.N. to advance human rights, healthcare, security, and education throughout the world; and we will continue to meet these and other commitments as we rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Our country continues to work with the U.N. in supplying aid for nations and peoples in need or distress, and in providing medical care and other essentials through U.N. agencies such as UNICEF.

As our world faces new challenges and opportunities, the efforts of the United Nations take on a renewed significance. The United States recognizes the U.N. for its efforts to support and strengthen the international coalition against global terror. And we hope the United Nations will fulfill its role in addressing the threats posed to the civilized world, particularly the threat now posed by Iraq. As a founding member of the U.N., the United States reaffirms our dedication to this vital organization and our hope that it will continue to fulfill the vision of its founders.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2002, as United Nations Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 28.

Remarks in Charlotte, North Carolina

October 24, 2002

Thank you all for coming. I'm glad to be back in North Carolina, and thanks for such a warm welcome. I want to talk about some things that are important. I want to talk about the future of this great country. We've got some tough tasks ahead of us. No question in my mind, we can accomplish anything we set our mind to. We're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

I want to talk to you about how to make our country safer, stronger, and better. And one way to do so is to send Elizabeth Dole to the United States Senate. There is no question in my mind, she is the right person for the job for North Carolina.

The senior Senator from North Carolina is retiring after a lot of good years of service to our country. I admire his service—no finer gentleman in the United States Senate. He represented North Carolina well. He's a credit to our country. And the right person to follow Senator Jesse Helms is soon-to-be Senator Elizabeth Dole.

She married well, and so did I. The truth of the matter is, Senator Dole—the male Senator Dole—and I married above ourselves. Laura sends her best. I just talked to her on the phone. She's on our—she wishes she could be here. She's on our ranch in Texas. It's been raining, so she needs to sweep the porch, because the President of China is coming tomorrow. *[Laughter]*

But she's doing great. She sends her love to Elizabeth, her best to all the candidates. She sends her best to all the friends of ours in North Carolina. I'm really proud of the job she's done on behalf of the American people.

I want to thank you all for coming, because it gives me a chance to thank you for what you have done and for what you're going to do. And what I hope you do, and I think you're going to do, is go to your coffee shops